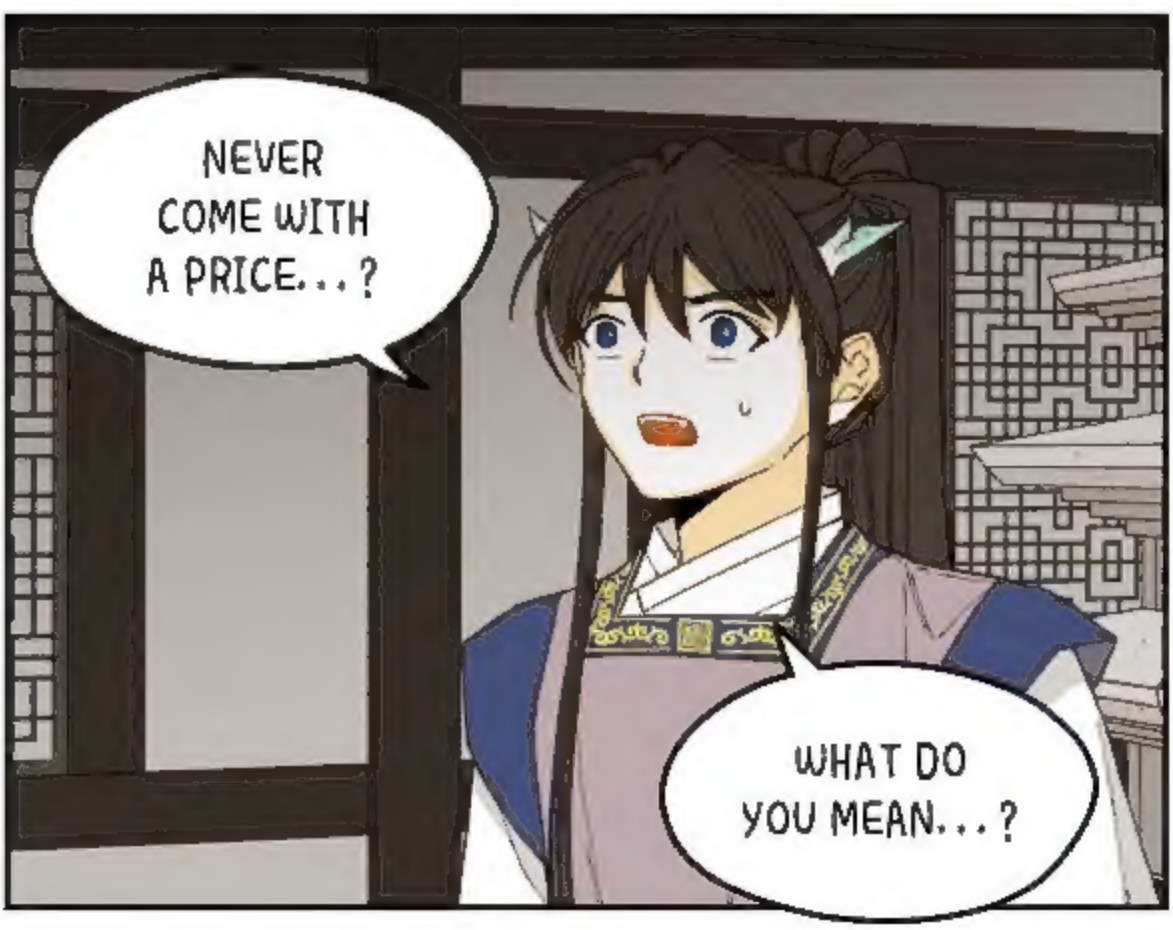
How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 169 -

ASCENSION HAS NEVER COME WITH A PRICE.



IF A SNAKE UNDERWENT A THOUSAND YEARS OF TRAINING,

THEY COULD ASCEND TO THE HEAVENS AND BECOME A DRAGON.
NO MATTER IF THEY WERE DISCOVERED BY HUMANS, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAID TO THEM,
IT POSED NO ISSUE FOR ASCENSION.
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAID TO THEM...?
...
SO... IT WAS OKAY FOR HUMANS TO CALL

THE YEONGSAN RIVER DRAGON...
...IS ONE OF THE OLDEST OF ALL THE DRAGONS!

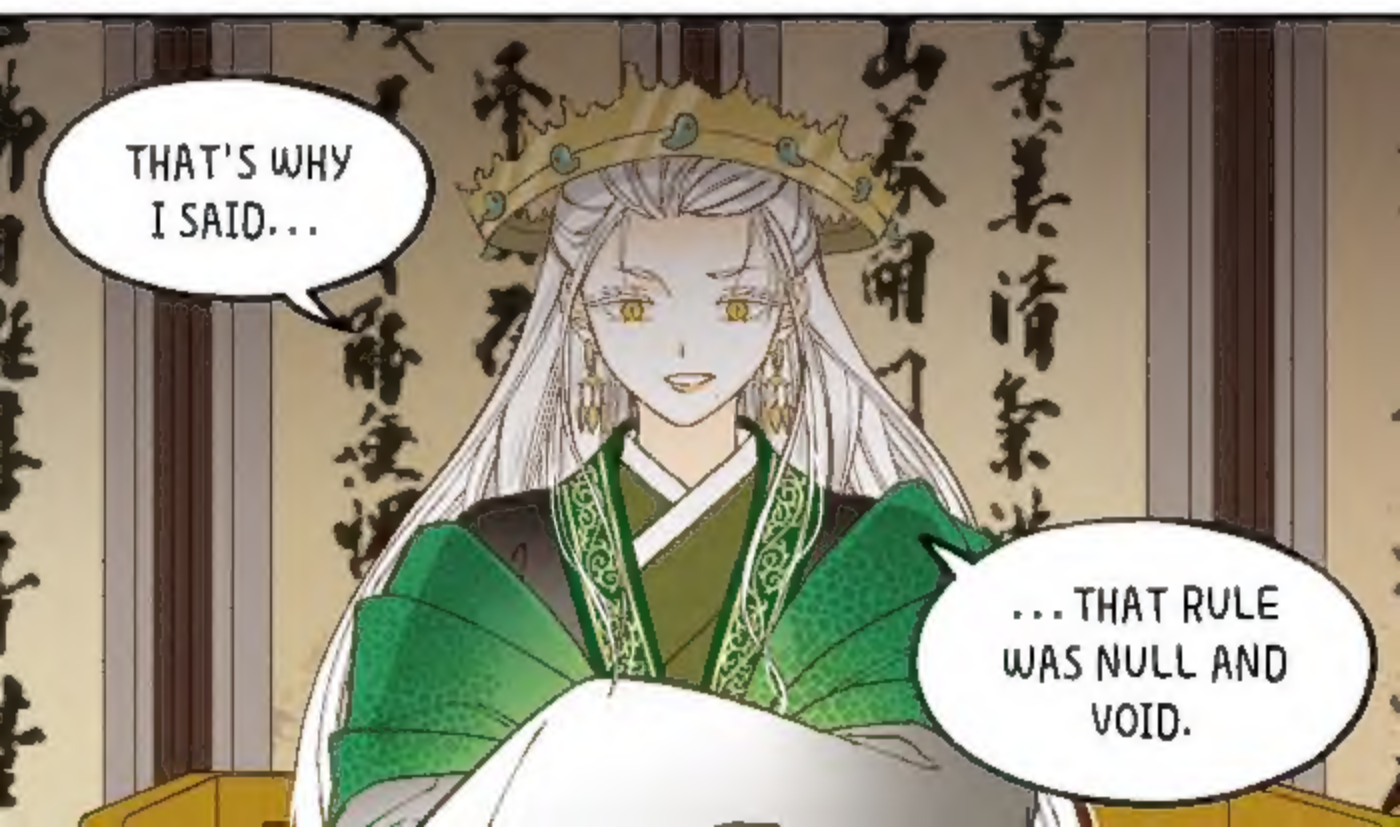
HMM...
THE RECENTLY DRAGONLESS NAKDONG RIVER,
THE APROK RIVER, DAEDONG RIVER, AND THE YEONGSAN RIVER WERE THE FIRST TO LEAVE CHEONRYONG'S

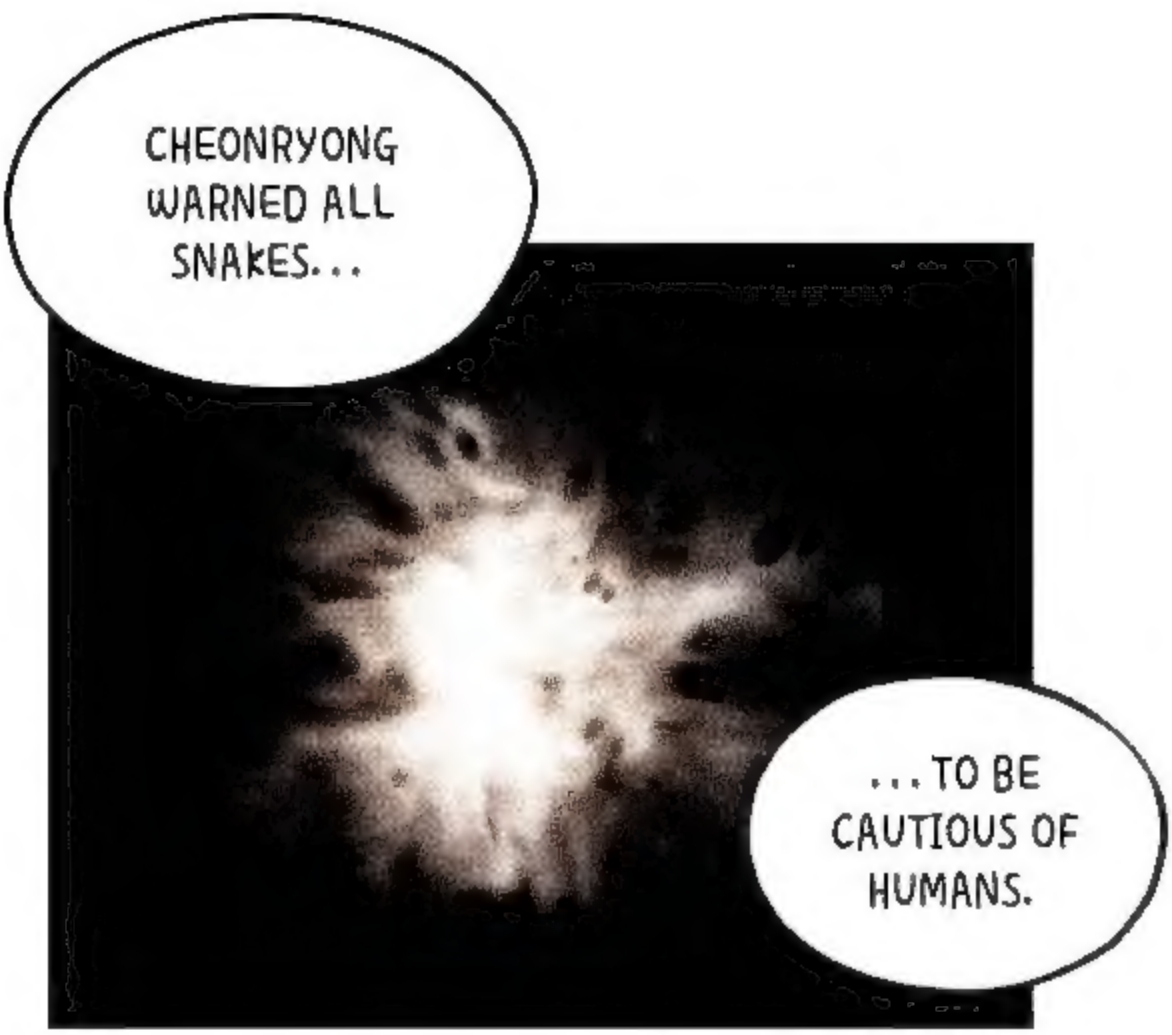
UNTIL THEN, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING WERE NOT STRICT.
ONCE A SNAKE HAD LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO OUTGROW THE POND IT LIVED IN,
IT WAS GIVEN A RIVER TO REST FREELY IN.

THAT'S WHY...
...THERE WERE NO HUMANS IN THE YEONGSAN RIVER DRAGON'S STORY...!

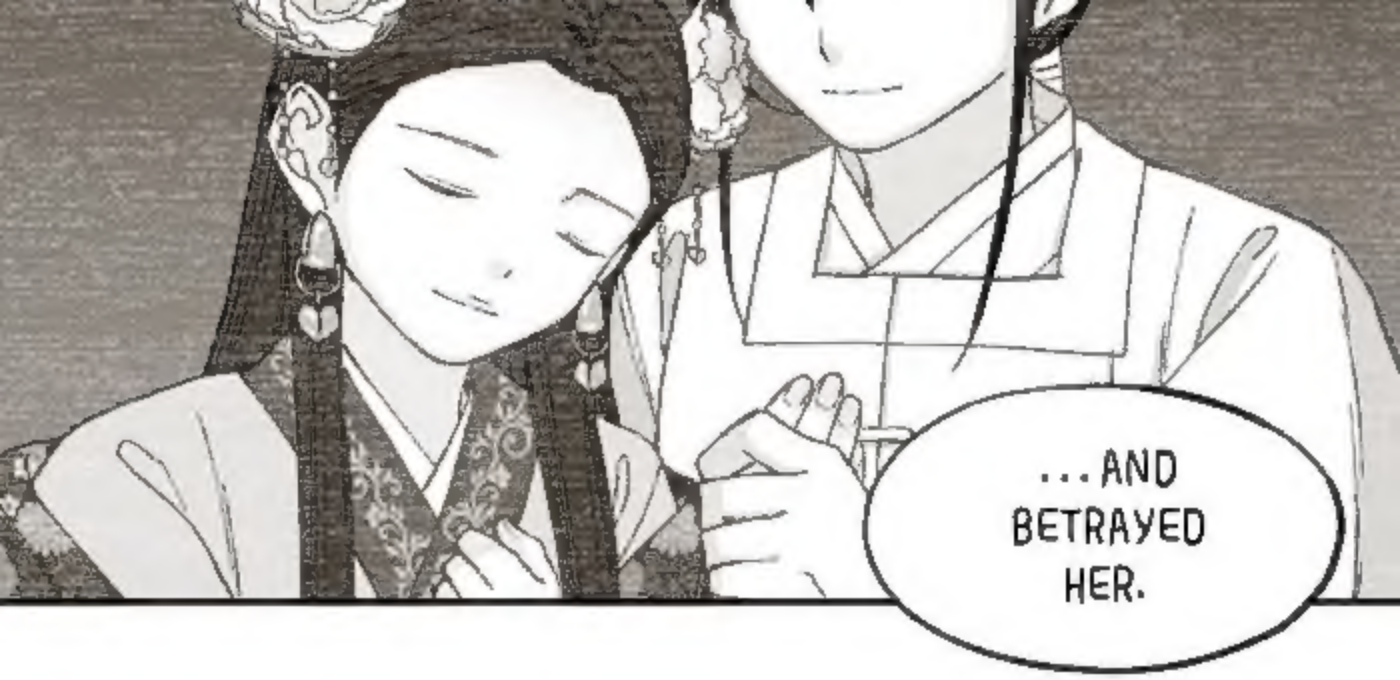
THEN...

WHAT ABOUT THE RULE THAT THE HEAVENS WOULD PUNISH US FOR SOMETHING A HUMAN MIGHT SAY TO US?
WHEN... WHY DID THAT BECOME A RULE?


THAT'S WHY I SAID...
...THAT RULE WAS NULL AND VOID.

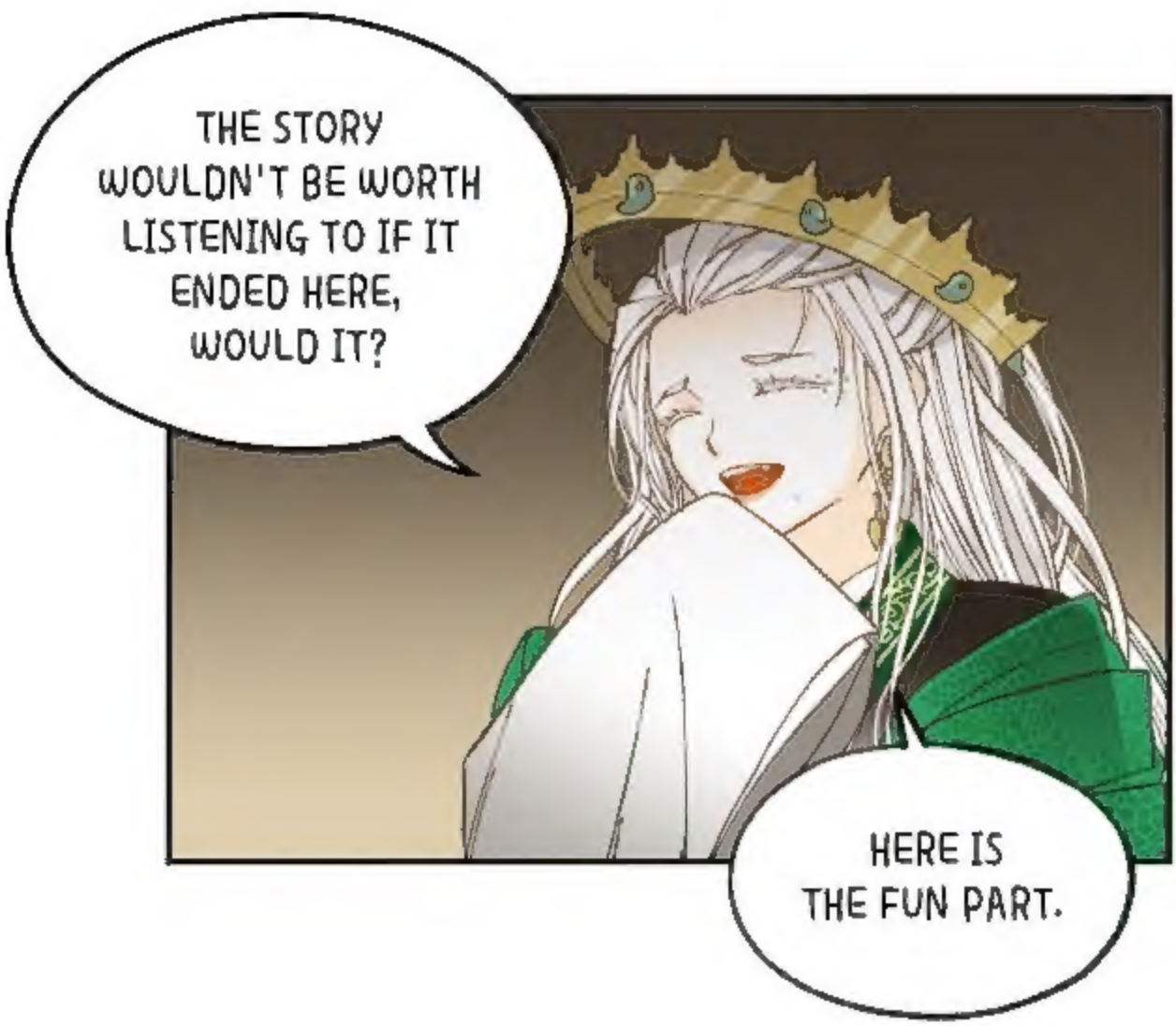

CHEONRYONG WARNED ALL SNAKES...
...TO BE CAUTIOUS OF HUMANS.

ESPECIALLY AFTER HER MOST FAVORED IMOOGI FELL IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN...


...AND BETRAYED HER.

THE CONCEPT OF AN IMOOGI...

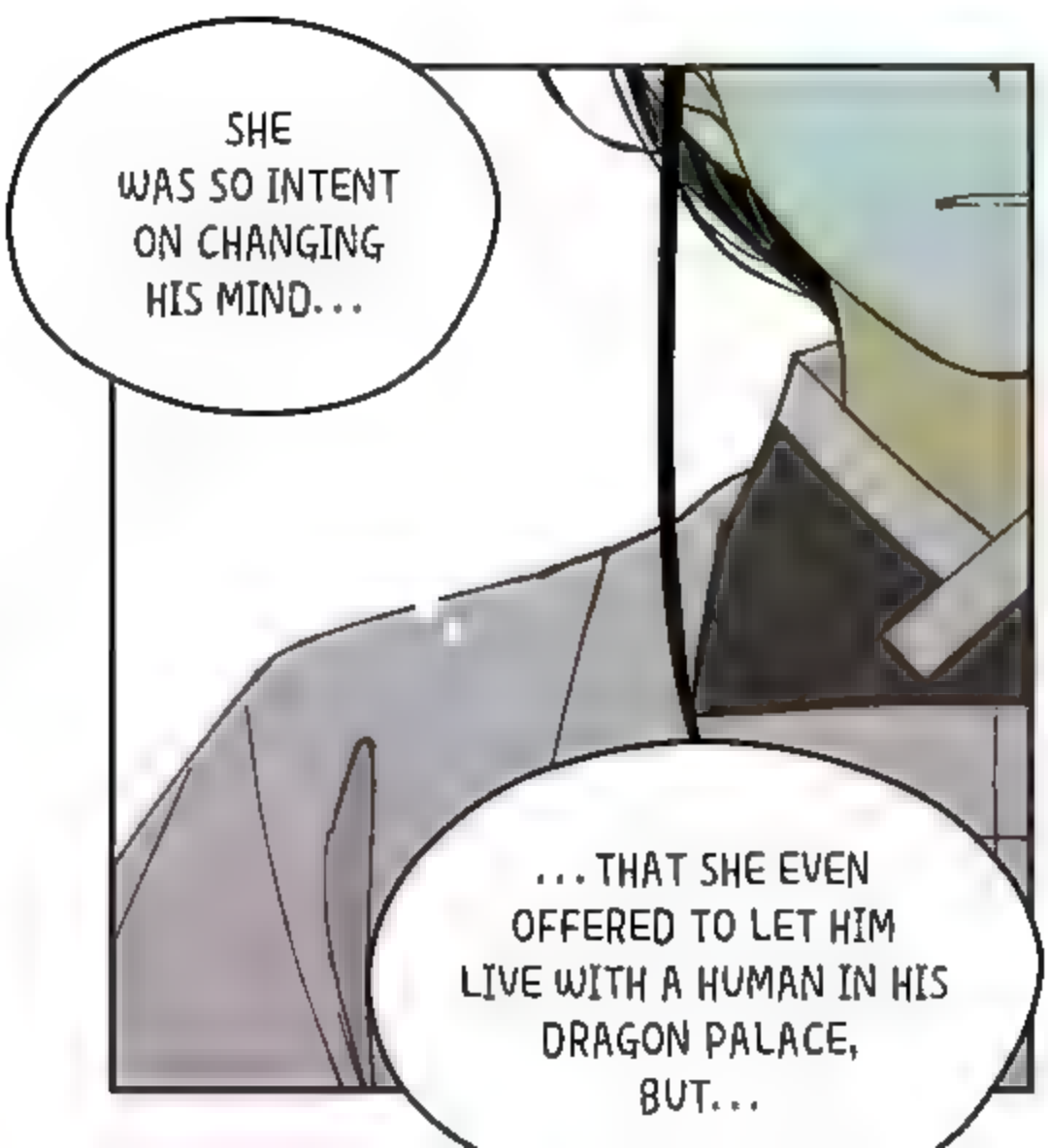
...WAS CREATED AFTER YISHIMI'S BETRAYAL.

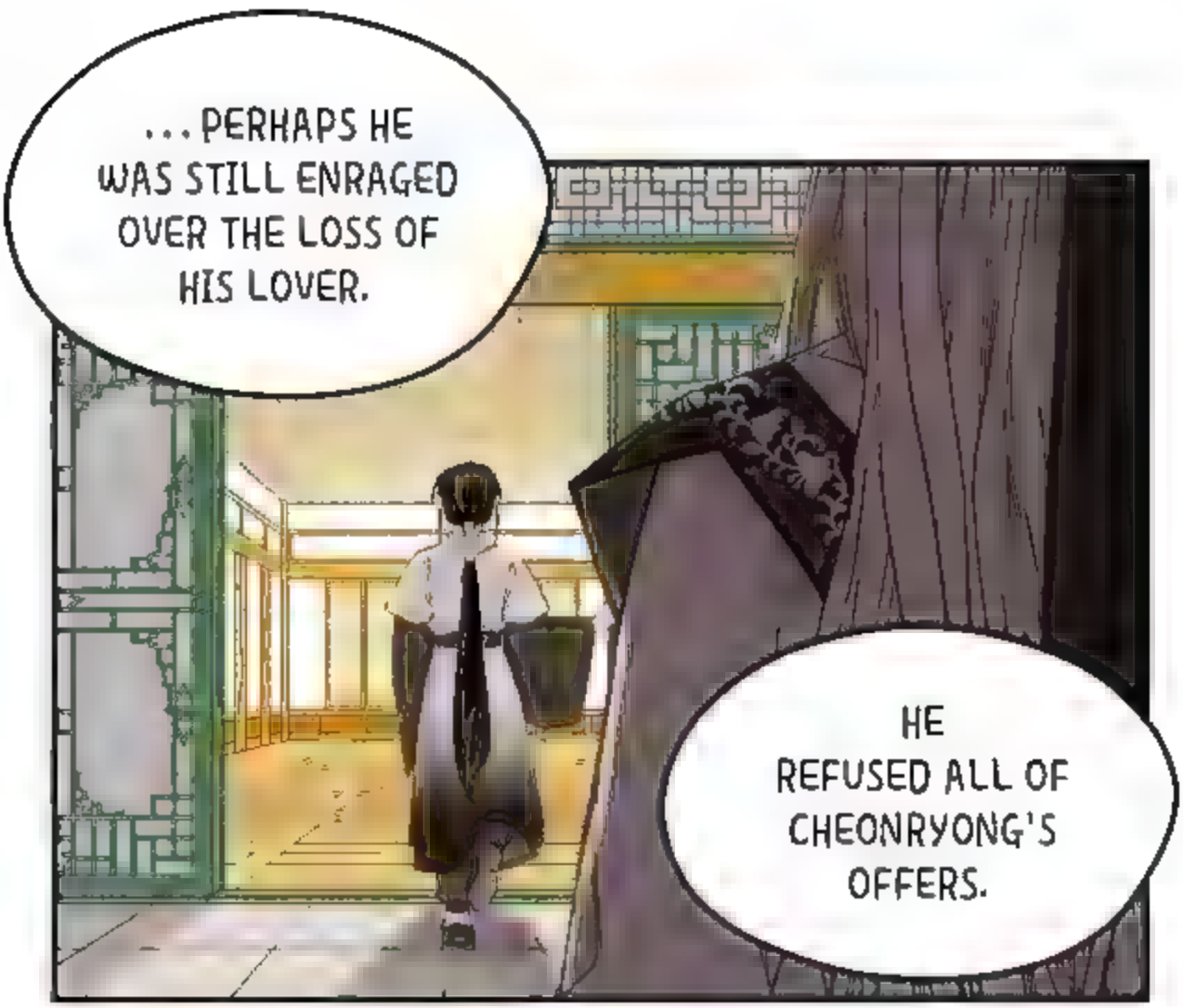

THE STORY WOULDN'T BE WORTH LISTENING TO IF IT ENDED HERE, WOULD IT?
HERE IS THE FUN PART.

CHEONRYONG MUST HAVE FELT BAD FOR YISHIMI, EVEN AFTER HE BETRAYED HER TRUST...
...SO SHE TOOK BACK HER WORD.

SHE GAVE HIM A NEW ORB THAT SHE MADE HERSELF...

...AND TOLD HIM TO ASCEND AGAIN.


SHE WAS SO INTENT ON CHANGING HIS MIND...
...THAT SHE EVEN OFFERED TO LET HIM LIVE WITH A HUMAN IN HIS DRAGON PALACE, BUT...



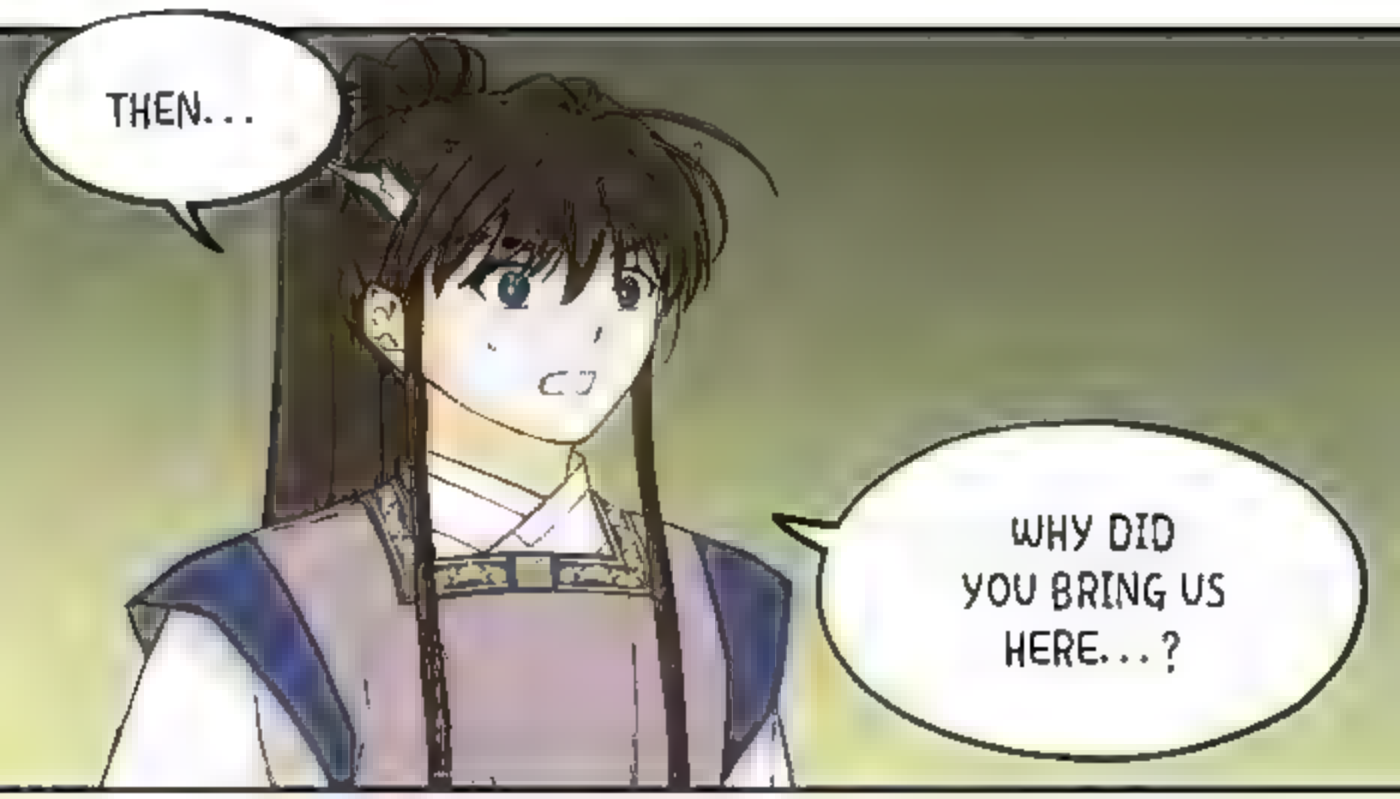
BUT NOW, THAT VERY IMOOGI IS BACK TO TAKE THE EXAM

AGAIN.
WAVE
HOW WOULD I NOT BE CURIOUS?

SO, I ASKED MY BROTHER.
STARTLE
FWSHH
ONCE I FIGURED EVERYTHING OUT, I WAS RATHER DISAPPOINTED THAT ALL OF THIS WAS OVER HIS SILLY WISH TO PLAY HOUSE WITH A HUMAN...

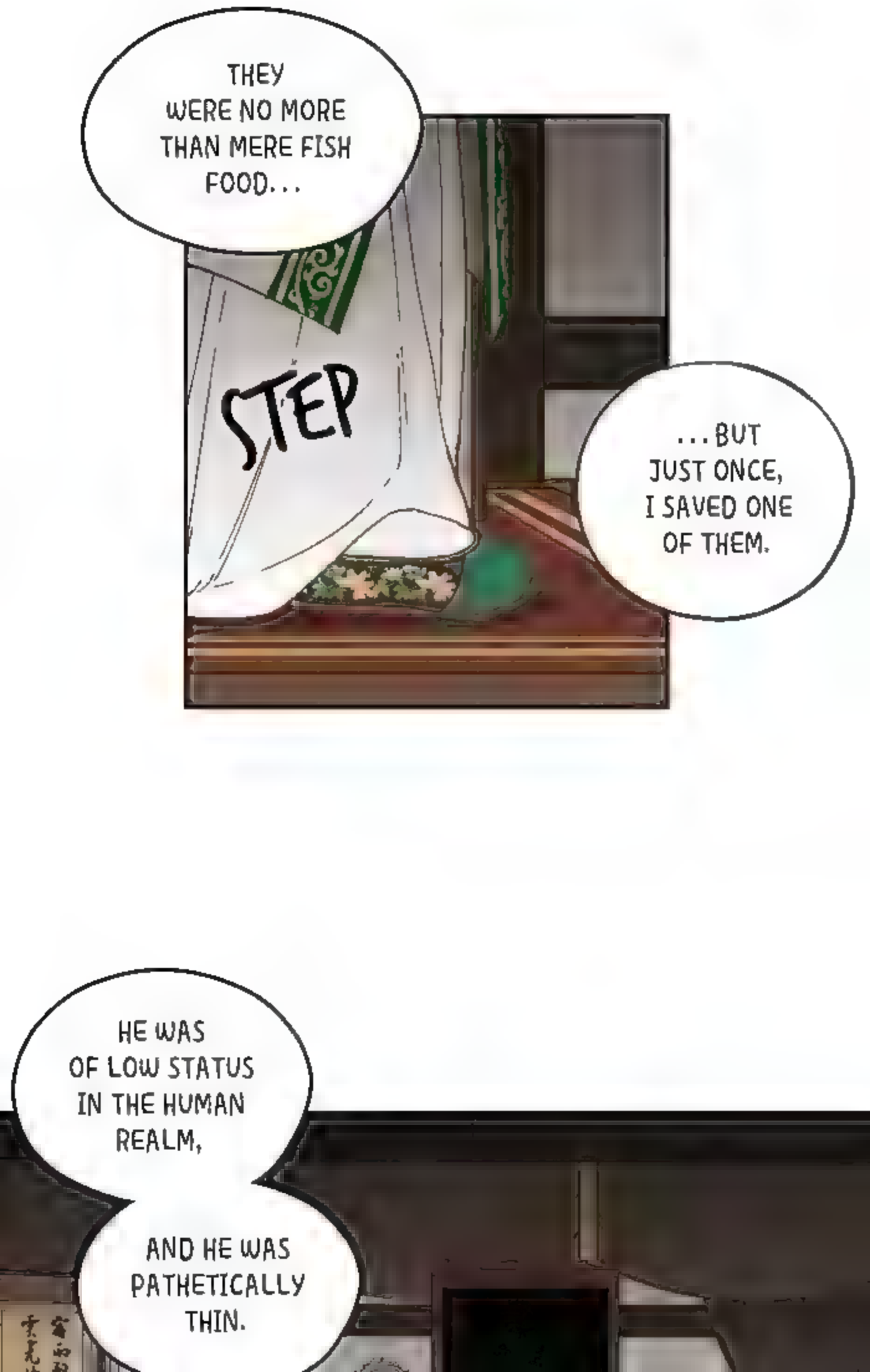
...BUT SINCE THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON DIED FROM A RULE THAT WAS MADE BECAUSE OF YISHIMI...

...I THOUGHT THAT IF HE BECAME THE NEW NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON, IT WOULD BRING THE STORY FULL CIRCLE.


THEN...
WHY DID YOU BRING US HERE...?

YOU...
SLIDE

...BRING A DIFFERENT STORY FULL CIRCLE.
AFTER I CAME TO RULE THE SOUTHERN SEA...
STEP
STEP
...TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HUMANS HAVE FALLEN INTO THE SEA AND ENDED THEIR SAD LITTLE LIVES.

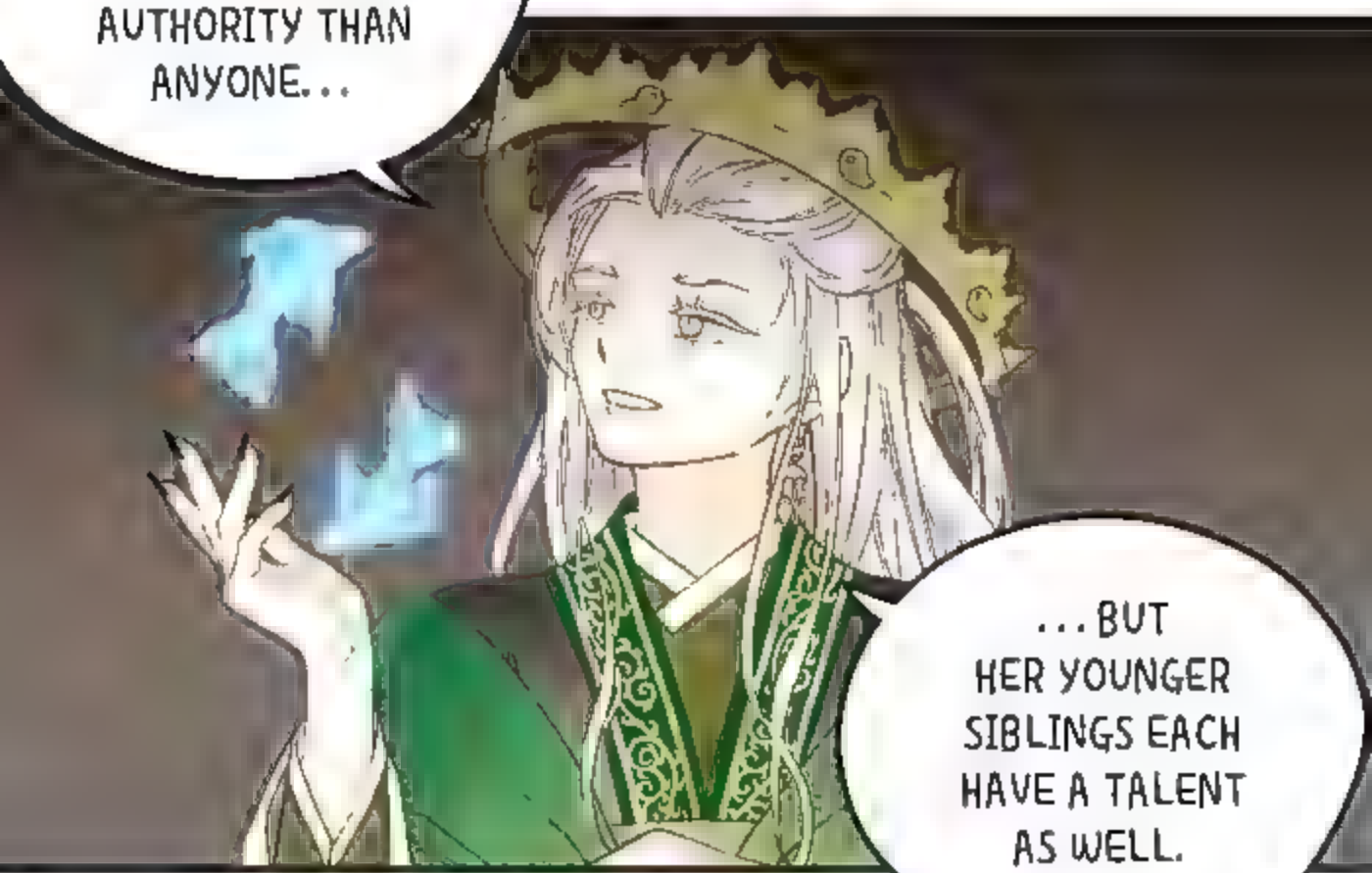

THEY WERE NO MORE THAN MERE FISH FOOD...
STEP
...BUT JUST ONCE, I SAVED ONE OF THEM.
HE WAS OF LOW STATUS IN THE HUMAN REALM,
AND HE WAS PATHETICALLY THIN.

YET A SNAKE THAT WOULD SOON BECOME IMMORTAL...
WAS RISKING HER LIFE FOR HIM.

HOW BOLD OF HER...
...
...TO IGNORE THE COMMAND OF THE RULER OF THAT SEA.

CHEONRYONG IS THE ELDEST OF HER SIBLINGS,

SO SHE IS STRONGER AND HOLDS MORE AUTHORITY THAN ANYONE...



...BUT HER YOUNGER SIBLINGS EACH HAVE A TALENT AS WELL.

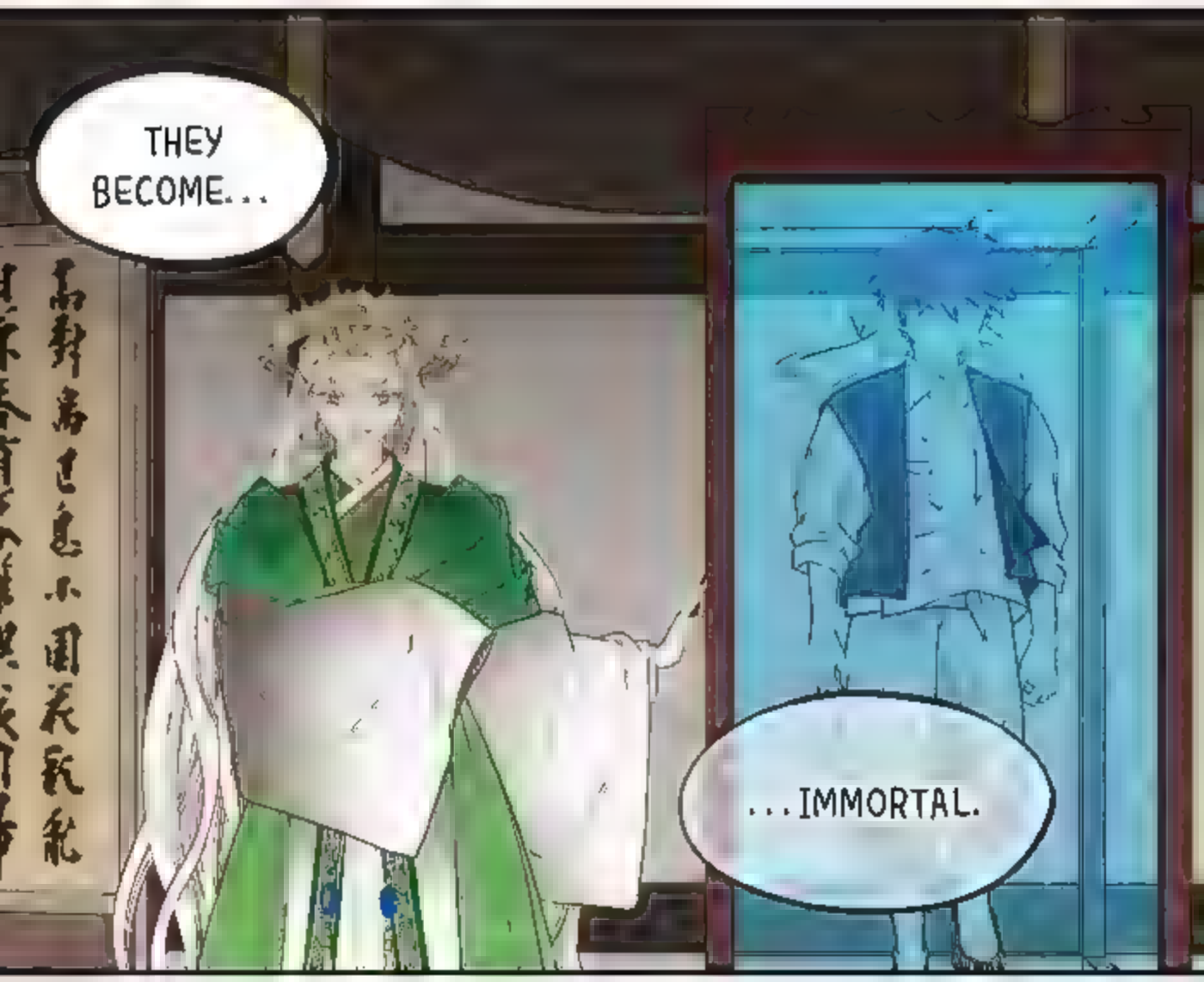
MY OLDEST BROTHER CAN SEE THE PAST...

...AND MY SECOND OLDEST BROTHER CAN SEE THE FUTURE, EVEN IF ONLY IN IRREGULAR INTERVALS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK...

...MY TALENT IS?

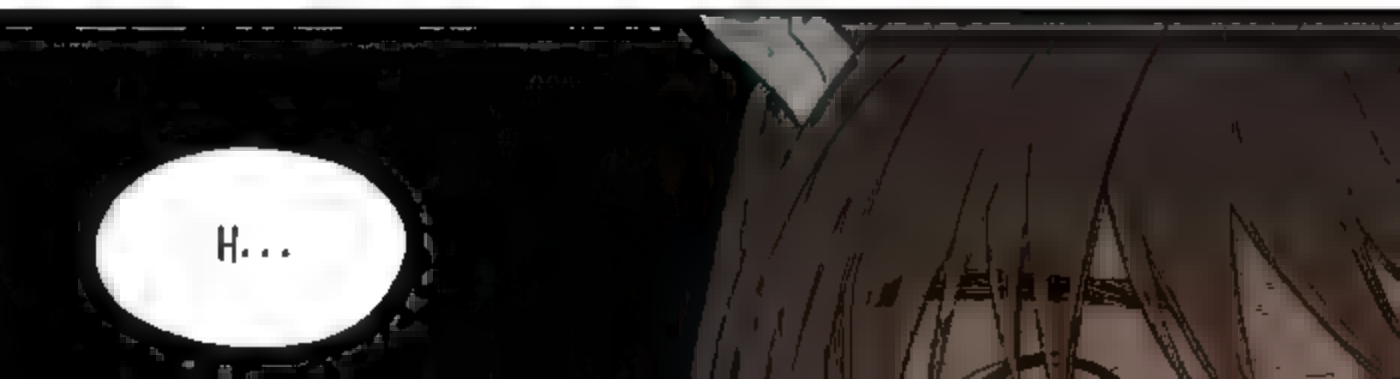
YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THOSE WHO LIVE IN A DRAGON PALACE...
IT CAN'T BE...
...CAN LIVE ALMOST ETERNALLY.

EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS WHERE I HAVE POWER...
FWOOM
...DOES NOT LIVE ALMOST ETERNALLY.


THEY BECOME...
...IMMORTAL.

M...

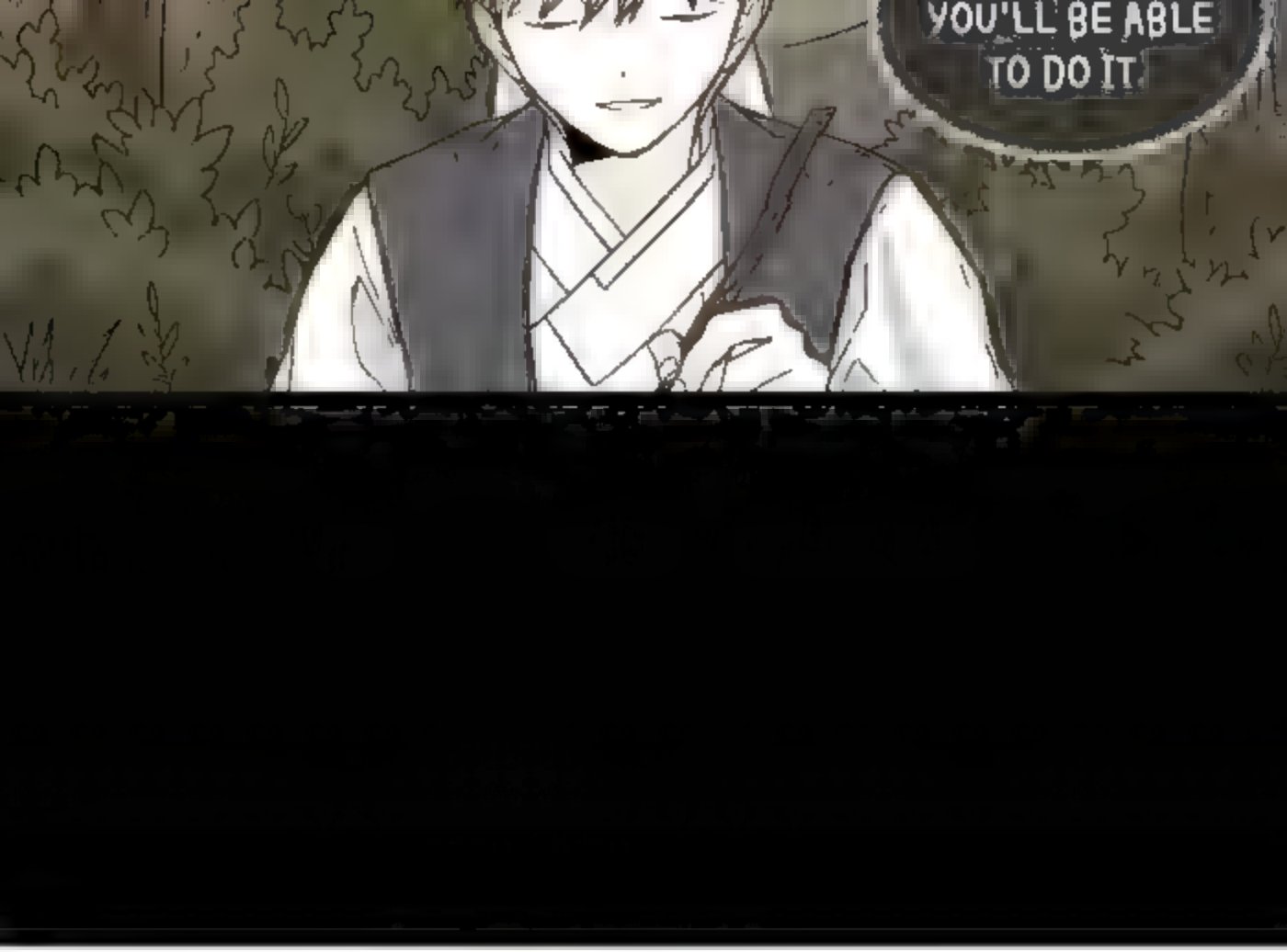
MR. KIM...?


H...

HOW...?

BARI!

I HOPE THINGS WORK OUT FOR YOU.
...AND YOUR WISH COMES TRUE.
IF IT'S YOU, BARI.
I THINK

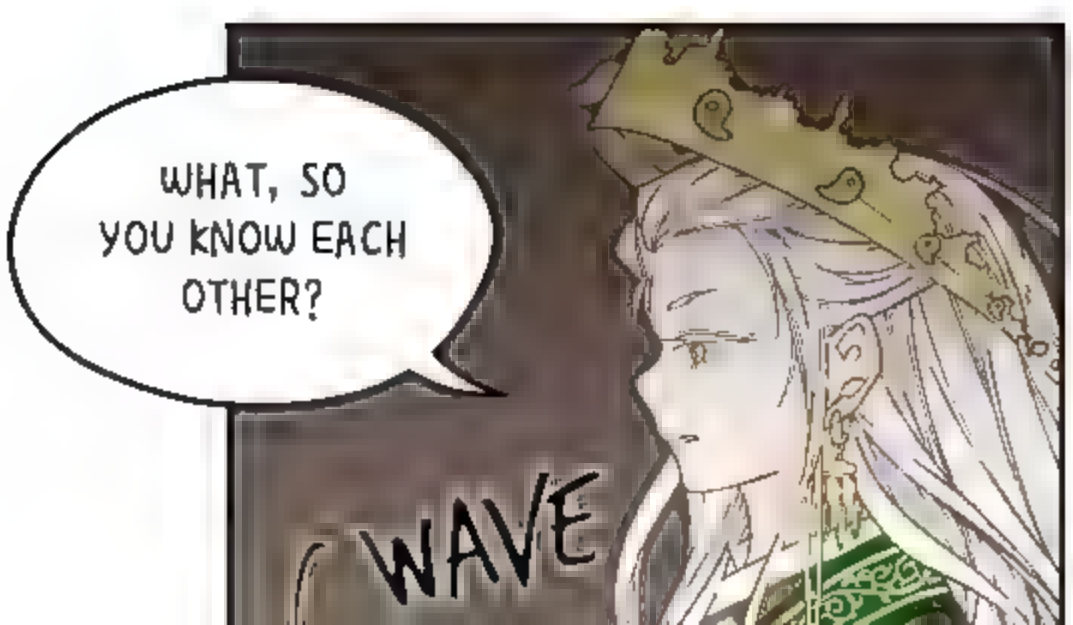

YOU'LL BE ABLE
TO DO IT.

YOU'RE
A SNAKE.

AAH...

I'M SORRY.

M-MR. KIM?
THE ONE WHO HELD BARI BACK...?
...


WHAT, SO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
WAVE

SO TWO OF YOU HAVE A CONNECTION TO HIM.
I THOUGHT HE...
FLOAT
...WAS THE ONLY ONE.

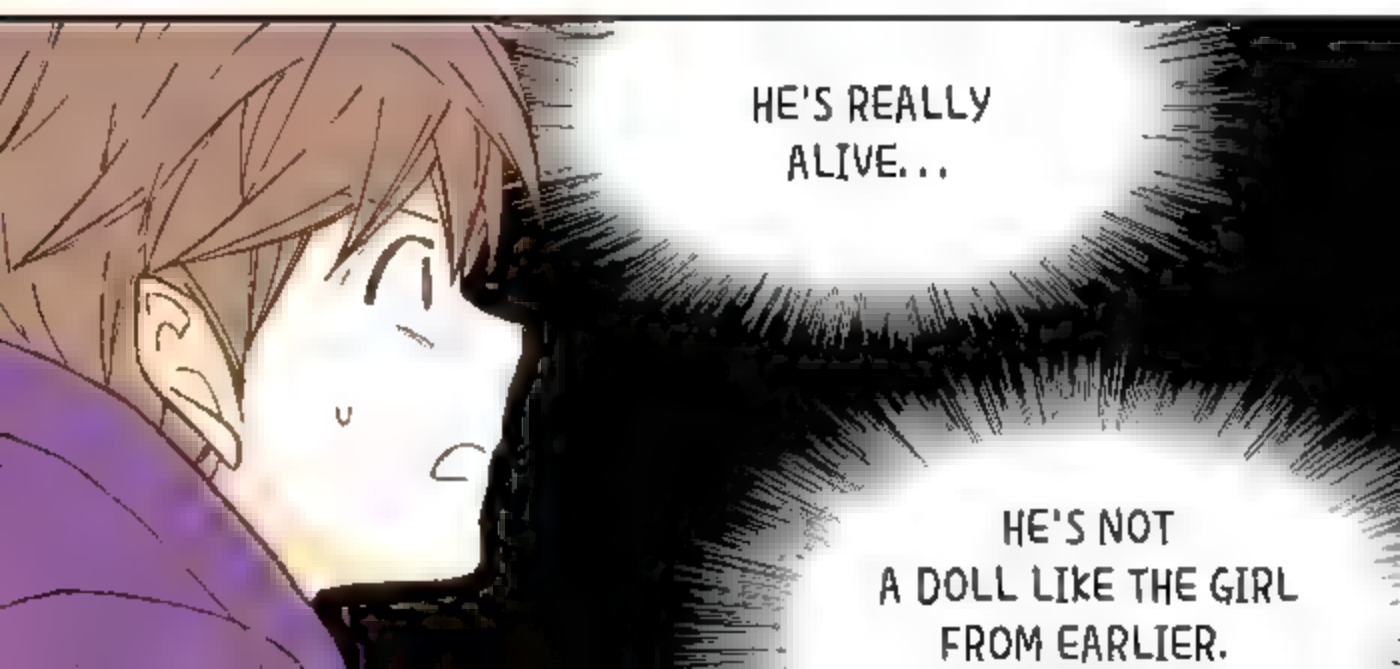
HUP...
FWOOSH

OW...!

THUD

...

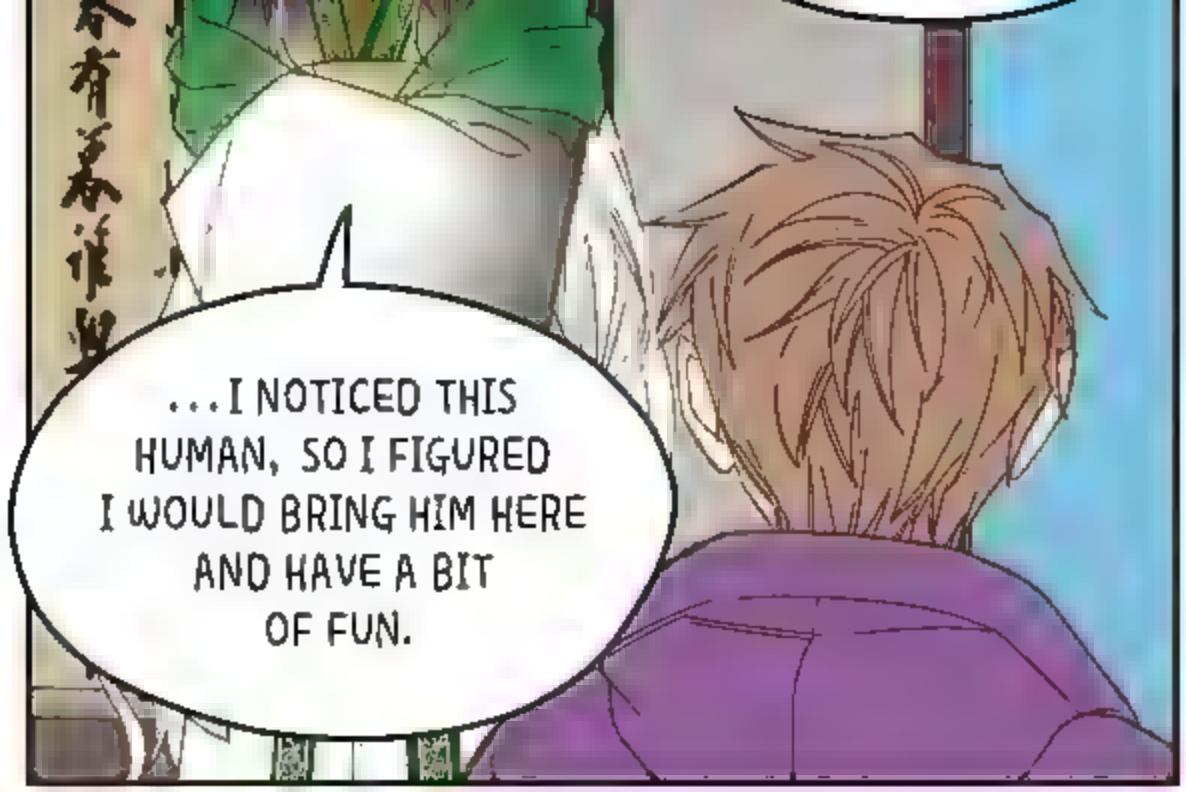
BUBBLE


HE'S REALLY ALIVE...
HE'S NOT A DOLL LIKE THE GIRL FROM EARLIER.

HE WAS BELOVED BY THE IMOOGI

WHO DARED CAUSE TROUBLE IN MY WATERS.
I KEPT HIM ALIVE BECAUSE I FELT THAT HE WOULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY...
...BUT ALL HE DOES IS BREATHE. HE WILL NOT WAKE UP.

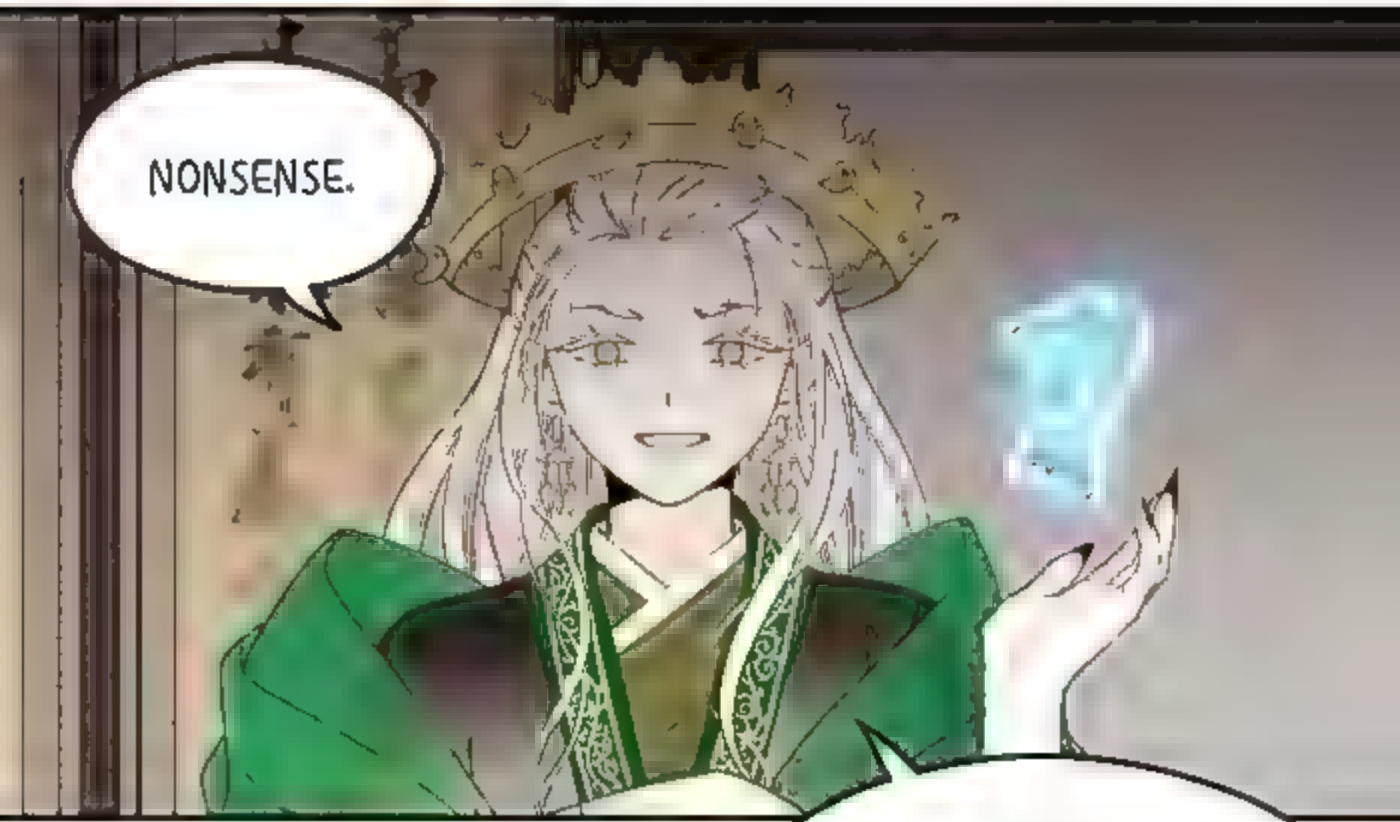
RIGHT AS I WAS ABOUT TO TOSS HIM OUT OF MY PALACE...


...I NOTICED THIS HUMAN, SO I FIGURED I WOULD BRING HIM HERE AND HAVE A BIT OF FUN.

THE OTHER ONE FELL INTO THE WATER WITHOUT LEAVING BEHIND A SINGLE CHILD...
...?
...SO WHERE DID THIS HUMAN COME FROM, REEKING OF THE

SAME BLOOD?

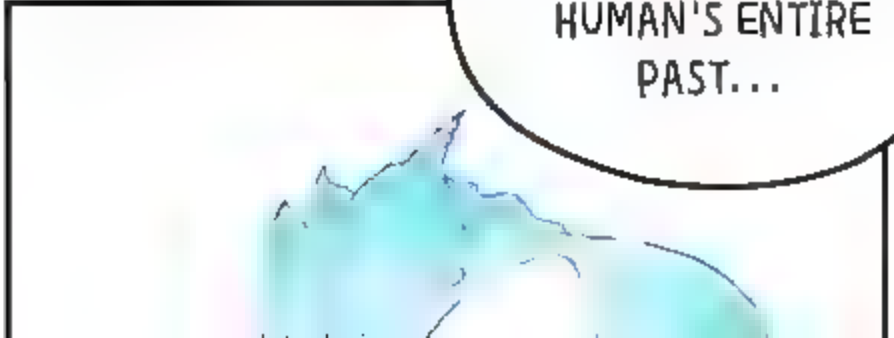
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HIS MOTHER MUST SHARE HIS BLOOD.
I'M CERTAIN THAT YOUNG IS MR. KIM'S ONLY DESCENDANT...



DO YOU THINK THAT WHAT YOU KNOW IS MORE ACCURATE THAN WHAT I HAVE SEEN?

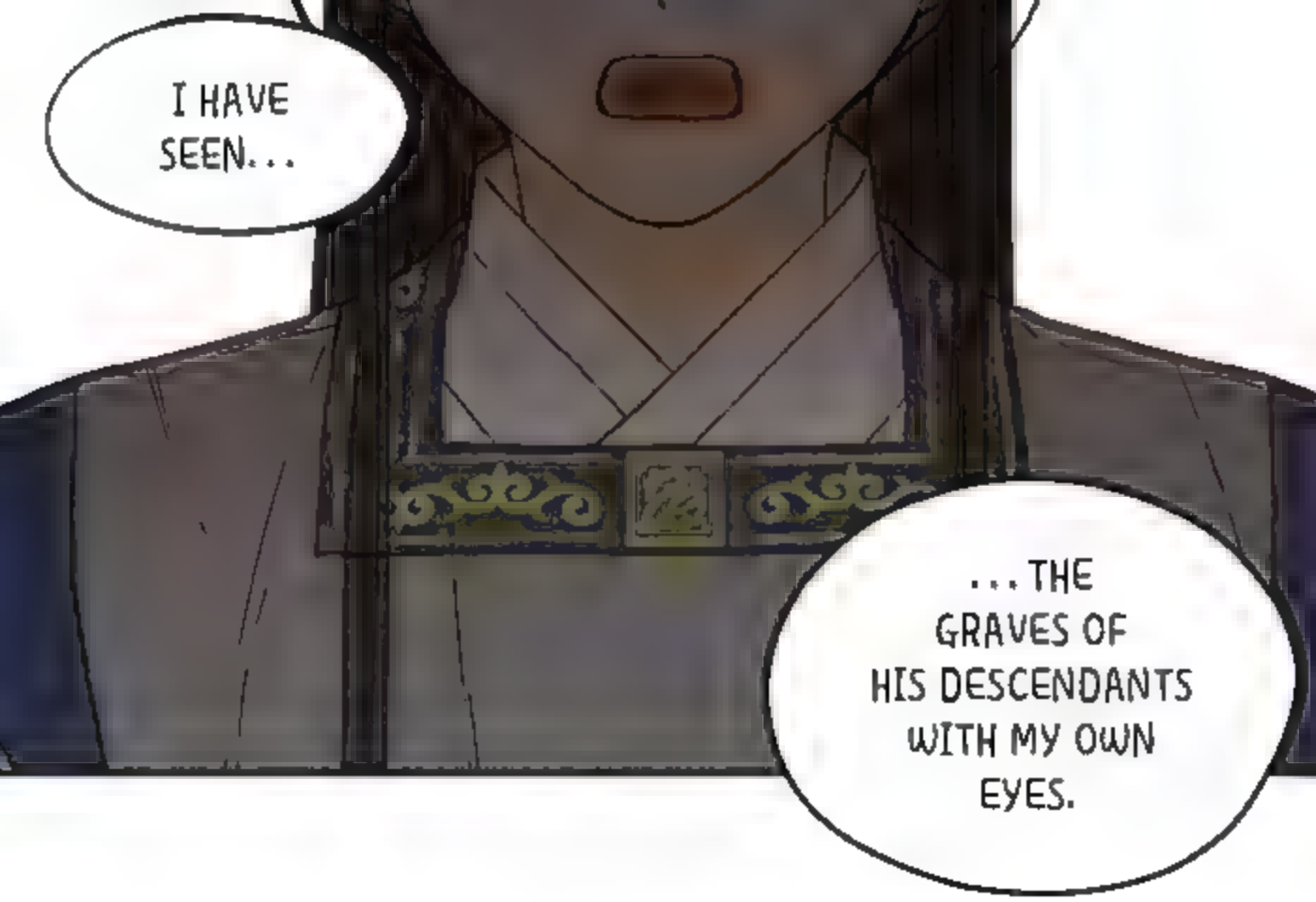
THIS IS SOMETHING I BORROWED FROM MY BROTHER, SO I CANNOT CONTROL IT COMPLETELY.

I COULD NOT READ THIS HUMAN'S ENTIRE PAST...



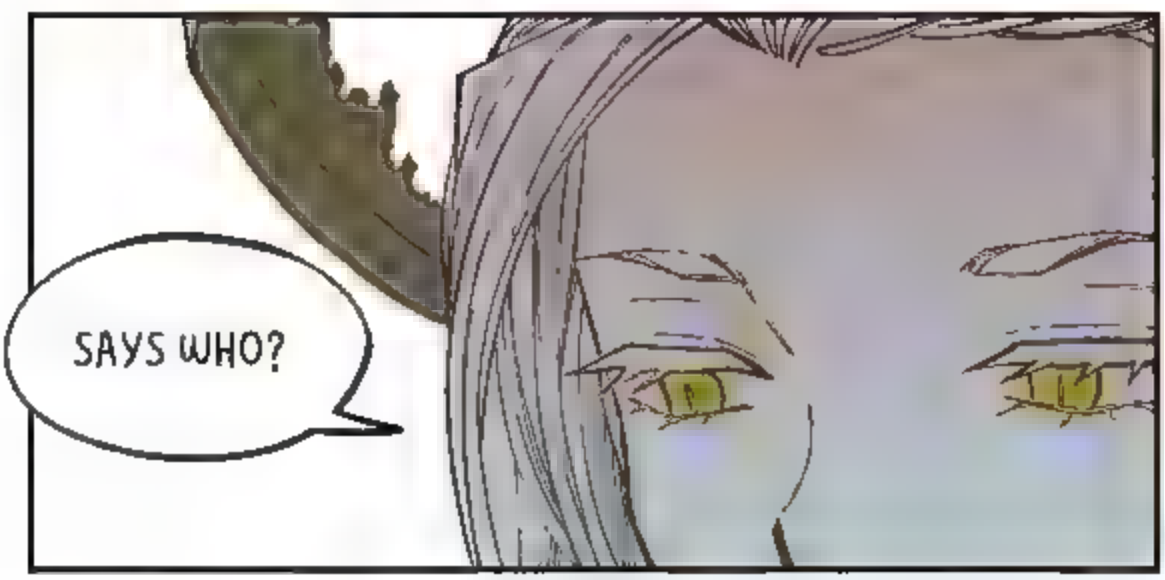
...BUT HE HAD NO MEMORIES OF A WIFE OR CHILDREN.
YOU COULDN'T READ ANYTHING ABOUT BARI IN HIS MEMORIES!
BARI WAS AN INCREDIBLY CLOSE FRIEND TO HIM...

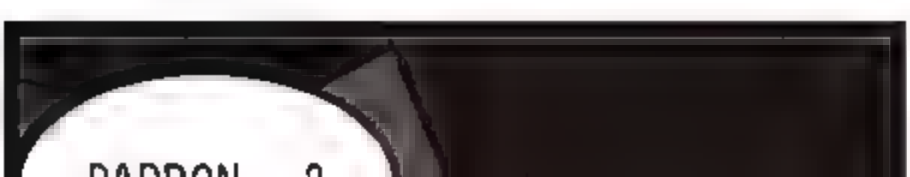
THEN ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THIS HUMAN'S DIRECT DESCENDANTS?
YOU DON'T LOOK A THING ALIKE...


I HAVE SEEN...
...THE GRAVES OF HIS DESCENDANTS WITH MY OWN EYES.

I HAVE FOUND THE GRAVES OF EVERY SINGLE ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS...
...AND FINALLY FOUND YOUNG AFTER SEARCHING THROUGH GENERATIONS.

HE IS MR. KIM'S DESCENDANT.

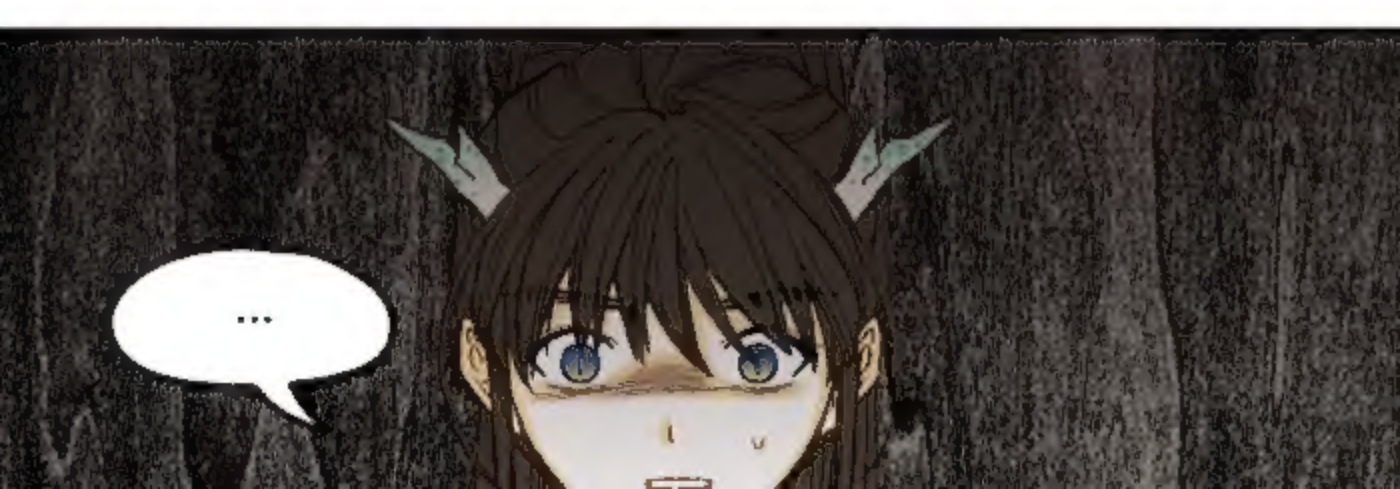

SAYS WHO?



PARDON...?
WHO TOLD YOU THAT THOSE WERE THE GRAVES OF HIS DESCENDANTS?

IT WAS...

IT WAS...



Story/Art eon
Assistance stinis
HD

Gwang-gyu